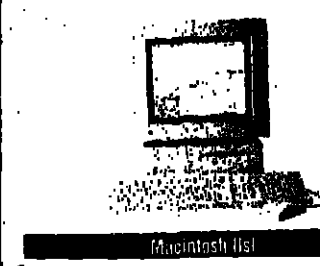


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Pocket Computers Sharp's slick, solid hybrid

By Paul Taylor

SHARP MAKES no pretense about it. The IQ-8200, proclaims the straightforward operation manual, is an Electronic Organizer.

In fact, the top-of-the-line IQ-8200 is a hybrid — more than a simple electronic diary-cum-calculator, but less than a fully-fledged hand-held computer.

The \$350 metallic-grey clam-shell machine measures 7"x3/4"x3/4". Yes, the IQ-8200 will fit in the palm of a large hand, or a suit pocket, but only just.

Sharp has produced a slick, solid, reasonably easy-to-use and versatile machine with a battery life of about 150 hours, power saving features and "low-battery" warning.

While the IQ-8200 offers all the usual electronic organizer functions—calendar, diary, calculator, telephone book, clock plus a few more — its real strength lies in the plug-in integrated circuit software applications cards which enable the machine to perform some of the most popular functions of a personal computer.

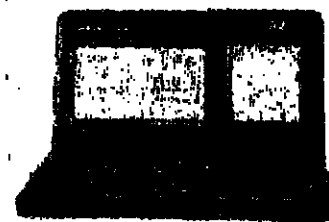
These credit-card sized ICs cost from \$70 to about \$200 and range from standard applications like spreadsheet (not Lotus 1-2-3) and database programs to a language translator and more specialized cards such as a money market dealers' card, a heat loss calculator for central heating installers and even a cinematographer's card.

Card functions are easy to select using the touch-sensitive window to the right of the screen.

The IQ-8200 is not for amateur programmers. But the corporate buyer's IT department (or the computer whiz) can produce other customized programs written on a PC and then transferred to IC cards.

The organizer comes with a reasonable 40x8 column's display (although there are only two fixed screen positions) and a calculator-style standard Qwerty keyboard with a good positive "feel" but not large enough for anything more than two finger operation.

Instead of typing in sales specifications, customers' names or



telephone numbers, it is much easier to download these from the office desktop PC or Apple Macintosh using the optional cable and communications software (cost \$150).

Names, product details, sales or other information stored on the IQ can be transmitted to an office computer over a telephone line using an optional pocket modem.

Similarly, when connected to a modem the IQ-8200 can act as a remote terminal to capture information from a host computer back at head office. Two organizers hooked up together can also swap data.

Built-in functions, which also

include a scheduler and an outliner, are called up to the screen using a set of 12 hardwired function buttons which are simple and fairly easy to use, particularly if the owner has had some experience of using a PC.

Minor niggles include the layout of the numeric keys and maths functions — two horizontal lines — which are more cumbersome to use than a calculator, and the memo feature which falls far short of even a fairly basic word processor.

The IQ-8200 also comes with a built-in context sensitive help feature, which saves having to dive back into the weighty manuals all the time.

If the price tag is too high, its look-alike "baby brother", the IQ-8200 with less memory, is an alternative at about \$300.

However, if what is required is a full-function IBM-compatible PC, it might be worth waiting for Sharp's PC-3000, which will be in the shops next month at or below \$1500.

COMPUTER CLINIC

♦ I WORK in a service agency and have been dealing with PC compatibles for a couple of years now. Only recently have I bought an Apple Macintosh Icx for home use. I was intending to buy a PC compatible, but I eventually ended up with a Mac after being told that it could run MS-DOS software. To be frank, I'm stuck and don't know what to do. I'd love to take the disks I work on at the office home with me. Would it help if I told you that I mostly use wordprocessors at work?

Essam Hamdallah, Amman-Jordan

Our compatibility expert answers:

■ Well, Essam, it's interesting that you should ask such a question now, since there is a global direction towards making Macintoshes and PCs in the same office a little more compatible. Of course, in such a case, vast networking facilities are applied, which may involve many applications like Apple Talk or others.

However, your case has a simple solution. You are required to obtain a DOS-Mounter for your Mac at home. You can get it from your local Apple dealer who should install it on your system with ease. Next, you should work with word-processors which enable you to save text as ASCII. Many packages offer this feature, and it shouldn't be difficult to get your hands on one. Once you've finished writing your text, save it as ASCII, take your disk home, turn on your Mac (which should automatically boot the DOS-Mounter), follow the instructions on screen for easy file transfer procedures and voila!

I tried it with Microsoft Word 4.0 on the Macintosh and it worked like a dream. You can look forward to future developments in this field, since we might soon be seeing a developed version of the UNIX operating system which will run on both PCs and Macs and should end all compatibility problems.

1991: Another year of computing

THERE'S SOMETHING about the end of each year that I just can't get over. There you are, sitting in front of your computer amidst the universal holiday celebrations, with thoughts on your mind ranging from worries about your computer breaking down next year (since it hasn't so far), to thinking about when computers may be taking us — since these machines are finding their way into every aspect of our daily lives.

It's been a rather eventful year locally and internationally. Some incidents will change the face of the computer industry as we know it and others will just be remembered with a smile.

In 1991 computers proved how effective they can be as weapons of war. The Gulf War represented a rally of electronic driven warfare with computer technology being used in espionage, sabotage, directing missiles and, most importantly, communications. Computer and electronics technology brought the hell of war into your sitting room even if you were thousands of miles away!

This year also saw PC and Macintosh owners up in arms, for once, after the announcement of the new alliance between IBM and Apple — the results of which are expected to surface in three to five years. Some Apple fanatics wept the end of innovation while IBM enthusiasts welcomed their new "user-friendly" comrades. The year saw escalated computer crime and sabotage world-wide pushing experts' capabilities to the maximum in creating trespasser-proof computer systems disavowing the fact that the culprits themselves are experts.

Computer viruses continued to pose a problem to users, in spite of the many virus killers that have been made available and in spite of the creation of database-like software capable of multiple killing after identifying viruses lurking within the system. Still, evil computer coders continued to trouble the lives of innocent computer users. What's the use anyway? There will always be new viruses which will require newer techniques of removal!

This all led up to certain hardline groups calling computers evil machines and preaching mass computer destruction since these nasty little electronic brains would lead humanity to its doom. It was highly exaggerated, but I must admit that they might lead me to my doom one day if my hard disk breaks down suddenly and all my work is lost!

An operating systems craze swept computer users off their feet. Many were looking at their computer through Windows while others went UNIX. More people exchanged their dull briefcases with ultra-super portable technology capable of storing lots of information and guaranteed to drive your boss crazy when you take your work home.

The video games industry grew with computers and consoles growing in popularity and with the advent of hand-held consoles like the Nintendo Gameboy which has succeeded in obtaining audiences of all ages. Arcade machines still gobble up millions of coins and some teenagers still get so involved in some role playing games that they commit suicide!

Back home, we indulged in a couple of big computer events like the Amman Computer Expo. In late October which attracted thousands of computer fans, in spite of coinciding with the Middle East Peace Conference, and the Apple Expo. back in June. These and other smaller shows attracted many computer fans and helped provide an idea on how big computers actually were in the country. The market grew this year and was flooded by new entrants. Arabization came into fashion and companies competed and still are competing to get products arabized. More governmental institutions and organizations incorporated computers, but sometimes suffered technical headaches causing long delays, lost money, and popular dissatisfaction. New fields of computer use started to emerge with designers dumping their pens and buying artwork packages and more publications incorporating computers in publishing.

It's been a busy year for computing in Jordan and a simple investigation of advertisements in the local papers should prove it. As we bid 1991 farewell, we wish that computer hardware and software will become cheaper next year — and let's hope that you won't have to sell your house to get the latest state-of-the-art technology! Happy New Year and may your computer prosper.

The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly

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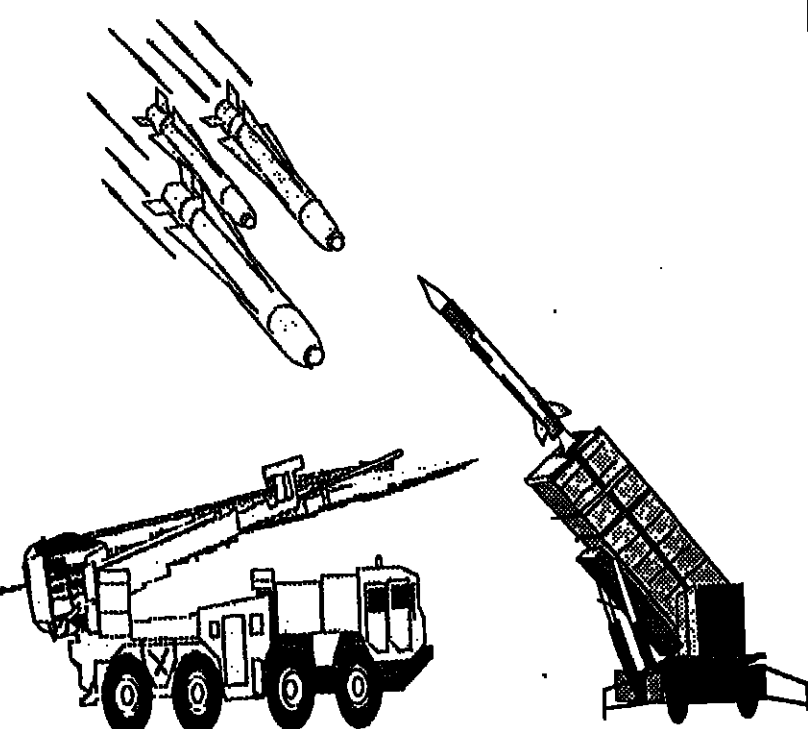
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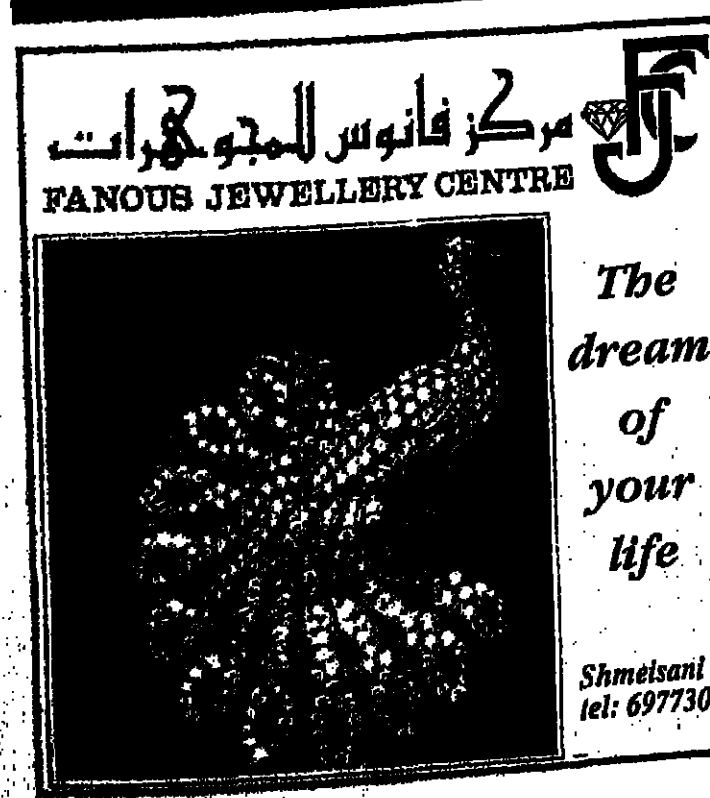
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Diary of the Gulf War Kuwait, one year later

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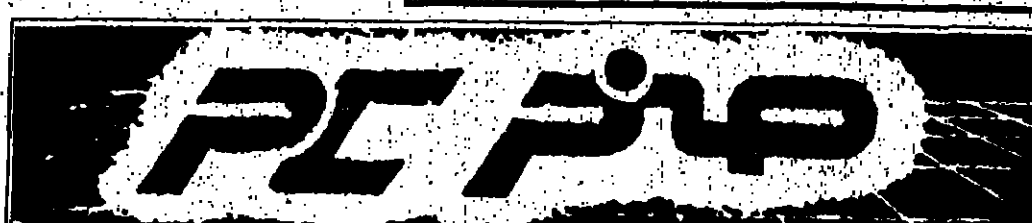
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By Cristina Malak
Special to The Star

US women lead peace convoy to aid Iraqi children

WITH THE aim of providing medicines and milk to Iraq, eight members of the US women peace organization MADRE visited Jordan last week. Working as a total team of 25 women, their convoy of supplies aimed to arrive in Baghdad on 16 January, coinciding with the first anniversary of the US-led allied bombings. Driving the four trucks of milk and medicine from Amman to Baghdad, the eight-strong delegation from MADRE and their supporters made an impassioned plea for an end to the sanctions that have been placed upon Iraq.

Mrs Vivien Stromberg, executive director of MADRE and leader of the delegation, said: "One aim of the campaign was to carry this message to the USA and international community - that sanctions must be lifted." She added, "War does not solve practical problems, and starving people does not solve political conflicts. There can be no peace without social justice. The Gulf War was unjust and the existing sanctions are unjust and have to be lifted. This war is still going on for the mothers and their children."

This is the first time that MADRE have organized a campaign for Iraq. Bearing in mind international study team statistics that cite Iraqi infant mortality as having tripled and some 100,000 children's deaths as a result of the war and the ensuing sanctions, MADRE's convoy of milk and medicine was organized as an emergency campaign. They planned that their supplies be distributed to hospitals and similar institutions in Baghdad, Najaf and Karbala.

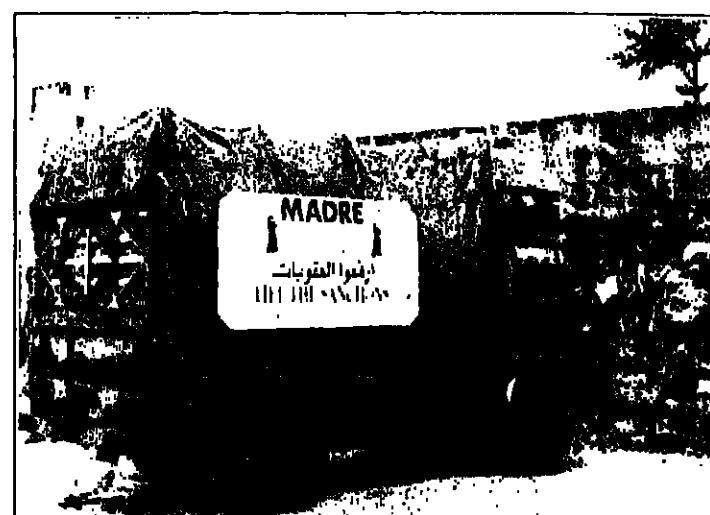
Horrified at reports that state that more than 90,000 Iraqi children under the age of five are suffering from malnutrition and disease caused by the delayed effects of destroyed water, sewage and electrical systems, MADRE sought the assistance of the Gen-

eral Federation of Jordanian Women and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, who supplied blankets, sweaters and aid for handicapped children. The milk and medicine campaign for Iraq has thus given these local organizations an added international dimension.

Originally inspired by the mothers of Nicaragua and in response to the needs of the Nicaraguan children suffering from the US-supported Contra war, the MADRE organization was founded in 1983, taking its name from the Spanish word for mother. MADRE now work in support of women and children in the US, Central America, the Caribbean and the Middle East, addressing US policies and their effects upon women and children.

A multi-cultural and cross-class organization, today MADRE has some 20,000 members, including notable figures such as Jacqueline Jackson, wife of the Reverend Jesse Jackson, actors Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman and prize-winning authors Alice Walker and Kurt Vonnegut. Working under the organization's logo of "joining hands and hearts with women and children for peace and for justice," Mrs Stromberg affirmed, "We know that this world can be a better place and we are here to make sure that our children can enjoy it."

MADRE's delegates defined their Iraqi campaign as a human mission with a political objective. Most of its members are affiliated to the organization for humanitarian reasons, although it has a very definite political dimension. All of MADRE's members objected strongly to the idea of war.



A truck loaded with badly needed milk and medicine before heading to Iraq

Popular opposition to the conflict in the Gulf has been a sensitive issue, and has led to a certain amount of personal tragedy. People who have been vocal in their resistance against US policy and the bombing against Iraq have been seen to be traitors.

Consequently MADRE has its own victims. Mrs Yolanda Huet-Vargh, a physician, MADRE member and mother of three, was a reserve officer during the Gulf War. Having refused to fight, she is now in prison as a result of her rejection of US policy.

Her conscience dictated that it was impossible for her to participate in a war that she did not believe in. Dr Helen Rodriguez-Trias, pediatrician and current president elect of the American Public Health Association explained that MADRE's policy supports basic needs that are both life-affirming and in international spirit. "The Iraq campaign is a woman to woman and people to

people campaign," she said. "MADRE redirect resources to meet basic needs on an international level, while I combine my work as a physician and as a political activist so as to address children's needs."

All participants from MADRE have described the American response to this campaign as having been positive and well supported, from every sector of society. Delegates carried letters for Iraqi children written by American children, which say, among other things, "We wish there would be no more wars....we are sorry for what happened....we wish you would be neighbors next to us and play....we love you."

Once the Iraqi mission has been completed, the group will return to the USA and will evaluate their results. If at that time no apparent results have been achieved, the representatives of MADRE plan once again to take further action.



Vivian Stromberg

BRIEFS

By Amr Al-Saker
Special to The Star

The Jordanian government has approved a PLO request to hold a conference on industry in the Occupied Territories in Amman during the second half of this year.

The government has decided to raise the issue of Arab economic cooperation and the future of the Arab Economic Unity Council during the upcoming meetings of the Social and Economic Council which will be held in Cairo on 1 February. Jordan's delegation will be headed by our ambassador in Egypt Mr Nabil Al-Nmr.

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Education Mr. Thouqan Al-Hindawi will leave for Cairo on Friday to head Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab education and economic planning ministers, which will convene from 25 to 28 February. During his stay in Cairo, Mr Hindawi will meet Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and senior Egyptian officials.

The government has approved a request by the Electricity Authority to attract tenders worth JD 2 million to carry out the remaining parts of the countryside electrification project in Jordan. Financing will be provided from the emergency budget.

A high-ranking Jordanian official will be appointed soon as Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations to replace former representative Mr Abdullah Salah who will be appointed to the Upper House.

The Cabinet has approved the terms of a loan agreement between the government and the phosphate and potash companies worth JD 14,857 million to be paid at 16 half annual instalments beginning in 1993 and at 6 per cent interest.

The Cabinet has also decided to increase the government's share in the capital of the Jordan International Bank/London by £1 million to be paid from the Central Bank reserves.

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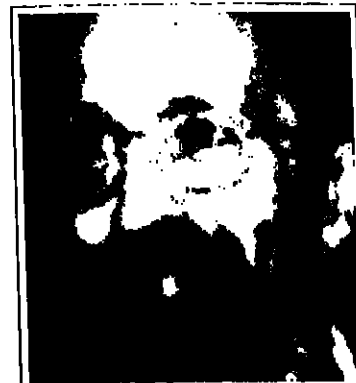
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Israeli intransigence on settlements issue blocks progress of talks

By Lina Arafat
Special to The Star



Dr Kassis

AFTER THE third round of bilateral talks with Israel ended in frustration last week, participants commented that while progress was made on resolving procedural disagreements over the terms of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, nothing substantive was achieved.

During these talks, one of the major achievements was to get the Palestinians and Israelis to agree for the first time, and to negotiate directly on an equal footing. To the Palestinian delegation at least, this was a historic step, but it promised little real progress for the issue of peace.

While engaging the Israelis in highly negotiations, the Palestinian delegation managed to get their long-standing demand for a cease to the settlements to be top of their agenda. "This is what we had in our way," said Dr Kassis, a professor of nuclear physics at Bir Zeit University, and a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks. "We were able to present matters of substance such as the settlements, an issue towards which the world community has defined its position. But while the Israelis agreed to discuss that track, they failed to submit an agenda of their crucial issues, stressing only on general matters such as the joint delegation," said Dr Kassis.

The Israeli settlements in the occupied territories became the dominating issue in the third round of the peace talks, and when the Palestinian delegation demanded to negotiate an end to further expansion, Israeli delegates refused claiming that they would only be prepared to discuss the issue at a later stage in the talks.

The Israelis are adamant that the establishment of such settlements should continue, an issue which remains the greatest obstacle to both peace and to the talks themselves. With this in mind, the Palestinians hope that President Bush will consider freezing and putting stricter conditions on Israel's \$10 billion request for housing loan guarantees for should such guarantees be issued, the Palestinians will find no justification that the peace talks should continue.

How that request have been made to hold a new round of talks in February, tentatively agreed by the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to be scheduled between 10-25, there remains another point of contention to be settled. While the Arab side insists that negotiations be resumed in Washington, the Israelis made it clear that the location should be in or nearer to the Jordan East. The fate of the February talks hinges upon the outcome of the political crisis inside Israel.

We would have preferred to have negotiations in Madrid at a location instead of moving every time," said Dr Kassis.

Both sides in the (Arab) negotiations meant we are having negotiations with the Israelis. We are not wanting to end a conflict with normal relations. We are not wanting to end a conflict with normal relations. We are not wanting to end a conflict with normal relations.

Moscow on 28-29 January, covering issues such as arms control, water resources, refugees and economic development. These talks are expected to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and the European Community, in addition to other invited parties.

Earlier this week, however, Syria opposed attending the multilateral talks as long as Israel refused to withdraw from Arab lands occupied in the 1967 war. As for the Palestinian party, it is still not confirmed if they will be attending, and the decision will be made on their behalf by the PLO. "If Palestinians are to be represented in Moscow, our main interest would be to discuss the bilateral talks, giving priority to the issues of self-autonomy and the end of Israeli settlements," Dr Kassis said.

The multilateral talks, a continuation of the peace process between the Israelis and the Arabs, are due to take place in

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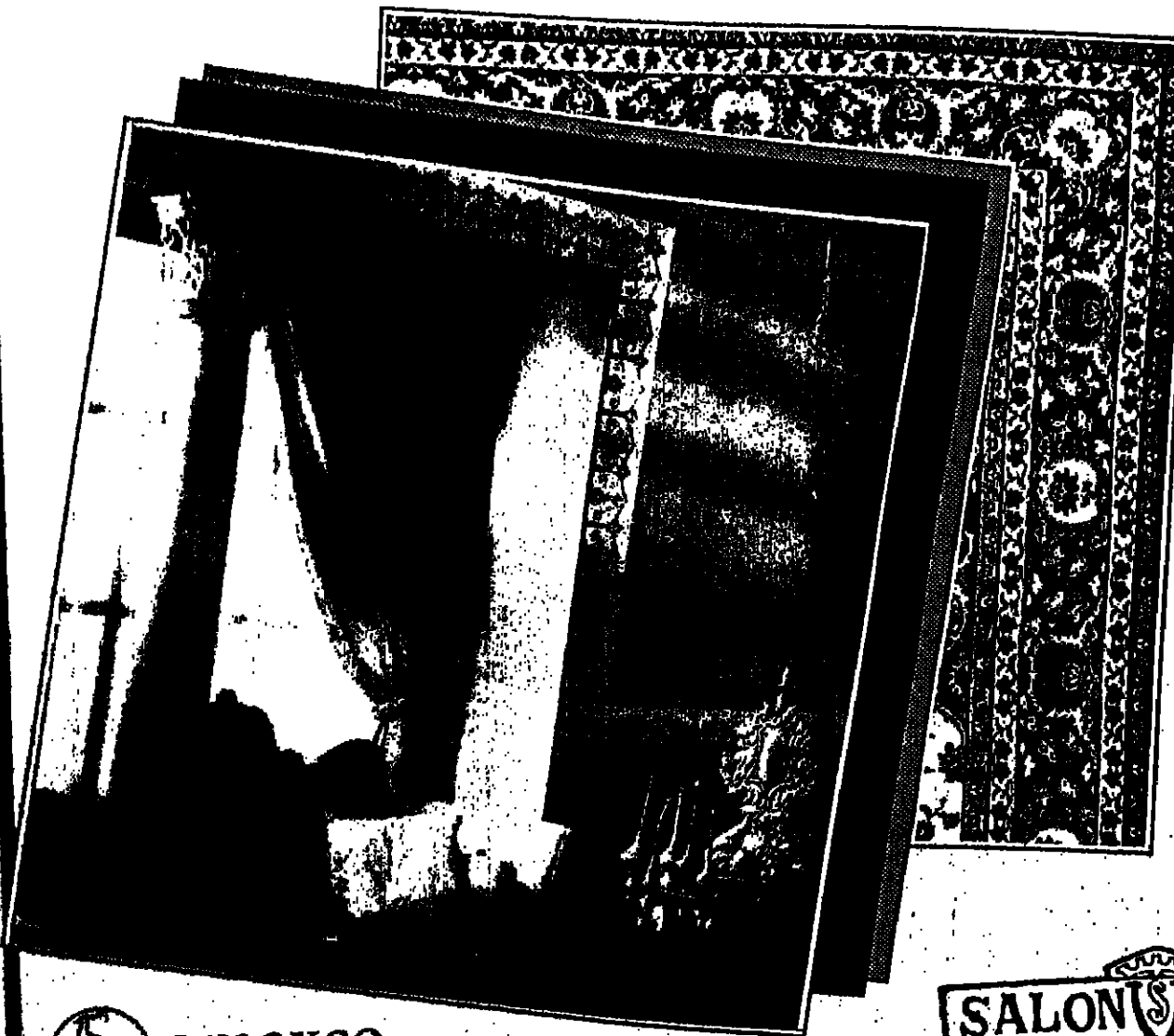
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Al-Abayeh

A STATE of limbo in Kuwait's political life has followed the war, reassuring in its way for those wary of change or a return to the acrimony that preceded parliament's dissolution in 1986, but disappointing for those who thought the conflict with Iraq might prove a political crossroads.

Pressures for restoration of full constitutional government had been growing in the year before the Iraqi invasion, and are belatedly being revived now. But the opposition is feeling its way cautiously, aware that the generality of Kuwaitis show little enthusiasm for anything smacking of a frontal offensive against the conservative order symbolised by a cabinet dominated by the ruling al-Sabah family.

The term opposition is itself something of a misnomer. Each group making up the movement has its own interests, and conflicts over long-term goals wait just behind efforts to form a united front for the immediate future. No one is aiming to destroy the system of finely balanced forces by unseating the ruling family.

In a small society consisting of interwoven family networks and economic interests, the boundaries between government and opposition blur, and the standard characterisation of a liberalising urban merchant class at odds

with al-Sabah conservatism is too tidy to be accurate. Neither bloc is monolithic.

If there is an immediate basis of unity in the urban middle and upper-middle classes — from which democratic elements in the opposition draw their main support — it is for a return to an elected National Assembly following elections promised for October next year.

Whether such an assembly will resume the combative tactics of its predecessor elected in 1985, a parliament which caused much turmoil in its attempts to impeach the Sabahs' ministers, cannot be known for certain yet. But chances are that it will not, unless the government grossly mismanages economic affairs.

Those critics who are elected to a new assembly will be wary of pushing things towards confrontation. Planned changes to electoral boundaries — overdue but controversial, as they look likely to be carried out by the present cabinet in the absence of parliament — are certain to add to the pro-government vote.

Mud still clings from the 1986

One year later Kuwait's opposition finds itself in limbo



Iraqi tanks in a Kuwait parking lot: Reminders of the past

assembly dissolution and suspension of the constitution, as much of it to the opposition as the government. The breakdown came when parliament, which can summon ministers for questioning and sack them, went after cabinet members one by one with allegations of corruption and improper tendering practices. It was not a sight to warm the

hearts of the emir, or his crown prince who formally appoints the cabinet, or restrictive and nervous Saudi Arabia.

Some opposition elements are accused of engineering the confrontation not in the national interest but out of their own interest in controlling the cake of state contracts. And when Ku-

waitis now ponder the possibility of a new assembly undertaking democratic reforms, such as citizenship for the Badoon (stateless Arabs) and votes for women and other disenfranchised citizens, they recall that the previous assembly voted to postpone for 10 years the question of giving voting rights to the country's large group of naturalised or "second class" citizens.

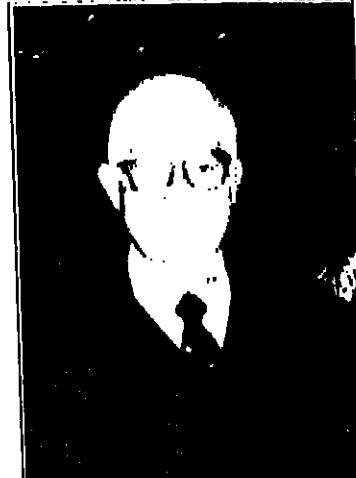
There is, however, a strong vein of support in Kuwait City (though apparently not in outlying Beduin areas where the Sabah writ prevails) for a return to "accountable government." The present National Council, an interim body whose 50 elected and 25 appointed members began sitting less than a month before the invasion, is felt to have acquiesced too easily in the Sabahs' clipping of its wings after liberation from the Iraqis.

If some former opposition MPs may have tried to encroach too far into the acknowledged government sphere on behalf of the merchant class, the ruling family is also seen as having branched too far into business once the assembly disappeared in 1986. The family's younger generation, in particular, is criticised for breaking old understandings about who dominated each sphere. It is a process which the National Council —

Continued on opposite page

The political evolution of John Anderson Former US congressman speaks on politics, peace and the presidency

By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer



Anderson: I don't want the Palestinians to be like the Kurds

JOHN Anderson, one-time US presidential candidate and peace activist, arrived in Jordan last week as part of a fact-finding mission sponsored by US peace group Pax World. Having visited Syria and the Occupied Territories, his delegation rounded off their tour in Amman, where he met with representatives to discuss his impressions of the region.

Now an active human rights campaigner and advocate of the Palestinian cause, Anderson has 20 years' experience as a Republican representative in the US Congress behind him. He ran as an independent candidate against Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan for the 1980 US presidential elections. Despite securing around seven per cent of the national vote and consequently backing down from the national stage, Anderson has remained a memorable figure in the mind of the American electorate.

A son of Illinois and a student of law, Anderson was likened in style and ideology to former president Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln was revered for his honesty, said Anderson, "yet he was also someone with a vision of the future. In my campaign I tried to be honest, to have vision, and to anticipate what the wishes of our country would be."

In line with Lincoln's commitment to the abolition of slavery, Anderson focused on a commitment to civil rights and the removal of injustices from American society. He delivered a humanist message rejecting discriminatory practices in housing, employment and education.

Lincoln was inspirational, said Anderson. "If a president is to be a true leader he has to do more than talk, he has to be influential."

A great favorite among the American youth at the time of the 1980 elections, Anderson admitted that a disproportionate number of his six million votes was cast by young people and intellectuals. They seemed to be the futuristic, or idealistic, face of my message," he said.

Anderson gives tremendous emphasis to political candidates speaking on honest and substantive issues. "Presidential elections are run by individual politicians," he said, criticizing the trend in the US for political "marketing," where candidates are promoted for their party's image rather than their party's issues.

Issues have become superficial to a pleasing personality, a money job or a beautiful wife. "We need a thoughtful appraisal of what a candidate can offer."

The results of his unsuccessful campaign left Anderson with a bitterness, but with a renewed sense of purpose towards the machine of the electoral system.

Anderson has not yet decided whether to get into that electoral fray, and after that we will see if he is really overwhelmed by a sense of purpose."

He particularly condemned the powerful individuals and special interest groups whom he claimed "threw all their money behind a particular candidate who offered support for their cause — from abortion to trade policy."

Anderson said he was disillusioned by the importance of material resources within the presidential election campaign. He ruefully remarked that while he and his supporters raised \$13.5 million towards expenses such as TV ads and transport, Jimmy Carter spent some \$75 million while the victor Ronald Reagan spent a sum of \$100 million.

Now that he is out of the political arena, Anderson lives in hope of electoral reform. "Until we have proportional representation it will be very difficult to give the people choice and establish a third political party in the United States," he said. "We need something more to the left," even Democrats are too close to the Republican position. Even with only 6 million votes I had the satisfaction of feeling that I said what I believed and gave the people a choice. This gave the campaign a redemptive quality."

His desire to break away from what he described as the "geriatric" US bipartisan political system reflects the steady shift of his political leanings away from those of the Republican party. Despite serving 10 terms as a Republican in Congress, he witnessed a metamorphosis in his political tendencies from conservative to liberal. "As I was moving left," he said, "the country was moving right. I was out of synch with the temper of the times."

Anderson's political evolution towards a more liberal ideology correlated with some new considerations concerning the fate of the Palestinians. His pro-Israeli stance became more accommodating. He denied that he wanted to see the destruction of the Israeli state, but argued that it should now go back to its pre-1967 borders.

"As time has gone on I have travelled and talked, and have realized that there is another people, the Palestinians, whose problems have been swept under the rug for many years," he said. "I don't want the Palestinians to be like the Kurds, dissipated in their strength."

Travelling and talking has in-

volved embarking on peace missions, such as his 1990 Middle East tour and his latest undertaking with Pax World. He has liaised with US church organizations, Jewish peace groups, Israeli humanists and hardline Palestinians and Zionists.

His recent visit to the region has left him with one fact clear in his mind: That the peace process, (which he strongly supports) must be allowed to proceed unhindered by the provocations of Israeli "zealots" who are encouraging further settlements in the heart of the Palestinian community. "These people don't want peace," he said. "They want their settlements above all. Tactics of their kind are a very real way of striking fear into the hearts of those (Palestinian) villagers."

He is now determined to take his analysis of his experiences to the US media, his former colleagues from Congress and a number of clubs and organizations. "We will talk to as many people as we can," he said, "with the viewpoint that Israeli settlements on Arab land should not continue. They are an obstacle to peace at a time when we should be making every effort towards peace."

Kuwait's opposition finds itself in limbo

Continued from opposite page

despite having its differences with the cabinet — has done little to block.

In the time before the election, the government will be working to expand the pool of Sabah supporters. With all the buying power of the state at its disposal, it is already having much success. Opponents speak of a steady growth in the "opportunistic element."

"This opposition consists too much of shades and orientations. It needs clear policies, full-time leaders and real organisation," said Abdul-Aziz Sultan, outspoken head of the Gulf Bank.

The Shia, their loyalty to Kuwait less suspect since their role in resisting the Iraqi occupiers, are already showing more assertiveness in demanding a greater political voice, and Islamic groups — probably the best organised — have come out of the shadows into the open.

Also frustrating the opposition is the post-war reimposition of censorship, though controls are far fewer than exist at the best of times in many other countries in the region.

On external matters, it is easier now for the press to attack the Iraqi, but criticisms on sensitive domestic issues — internal security, defence, immigration — are muted. The opposition wants censorship lifted right away, but wonders whether it will be removed even in the month-long campaign before the October election.

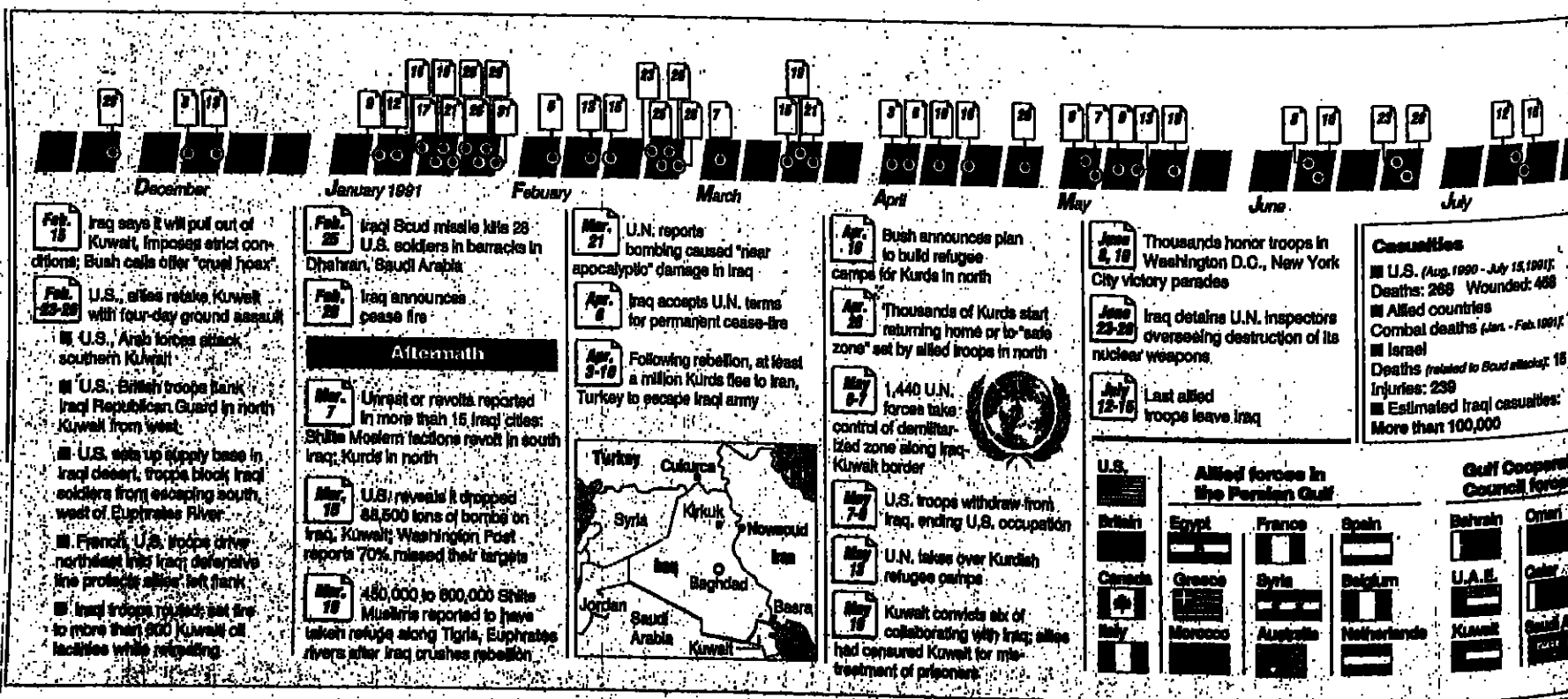
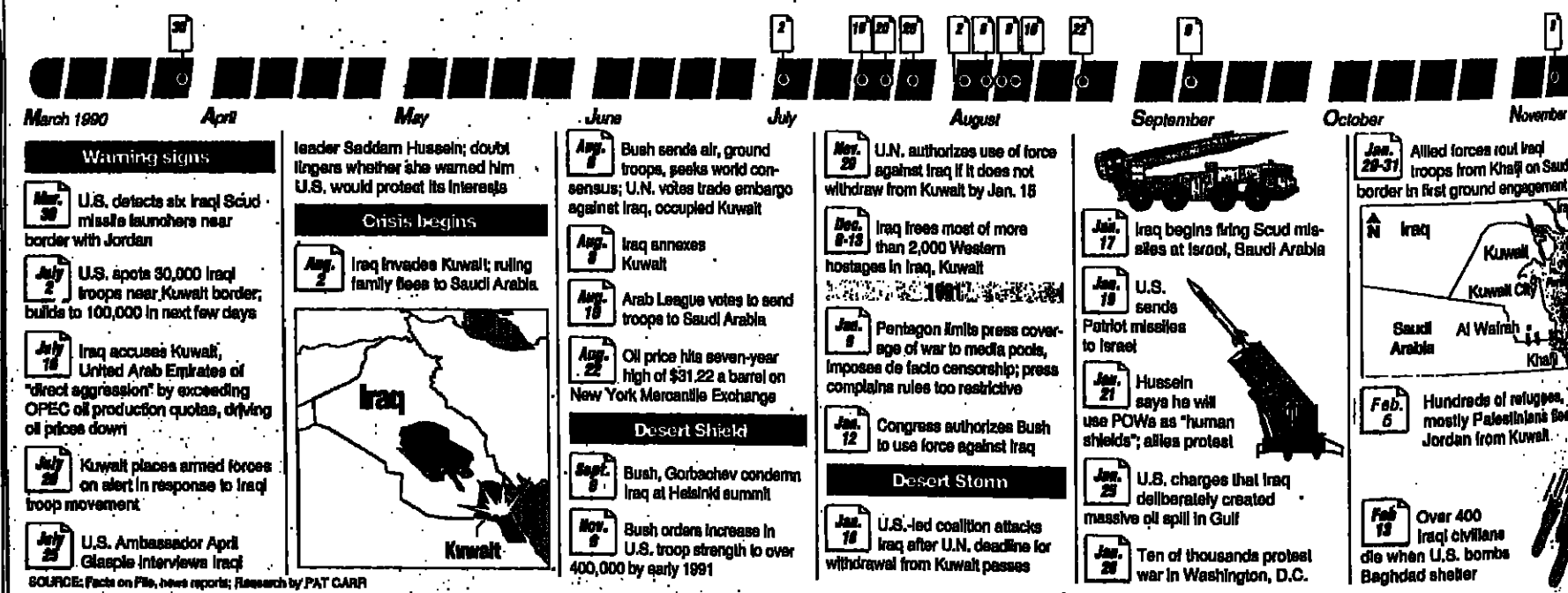
That poll will not hinge, however, on policy alone, as government critics like Abdullah Nibari of the Democratic Forum, a former MP, are the first to concede. "The map of the election will have a lot to do with family ties in tribal areas, and the family weight and religion of candidates," he says.

The opposition wants a caretaker cabinet named to oversee the elections. The Sabahs are unlikely to accede: a sign of weakness. But taking the risk could, equally, strengthen their standing.

The family's vulnerable point at present is the weakness of its cabinet. With reconstruction at the forefront of national imperatives, the ministerial body is sadly lacking in technocrats — a fact which has prompted much criticism of the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, and the deputy prime minister, Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem.

The Guardian

Desert operations: Looking back on the Gulf war



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By Salwa Sukhon
Special to The Star

Mona Latif Ghattas: A poet in profile

"WHEN I visited Luxor a few years ago, I was shocked to see a hieroglyphic of a woman resembling me. I thought it was my imagination until a lady came by and said, 'Isn't that you?'"

Simply but tastefully dressed, with a pharaonic bone structure and pharaonic hair style, this is how Arab-Canadian poet Mona Latif Ghattas explained her sense of belonging to Egypt and to the Middle East as a whole.

Born in Cairo in 1946, Mona lived in Egypt until she was nineteen. Her family emigrated to Quebec in 1966, where she studied drama and obtained her MA in literature from the University of Montreal. Her languages include Egyptian Arabic, French and English. Mona came to Jordan in early December to stage the first performance of her work 'Le Livre De Notes.' She then planned to go to Alexandria and the Cairo Opera House and to finally perform in Montreal in March.

"To me, Jordan is a holy land just like Jerusalem," she said, "and it gives me great pleasure to give the first performance of my work here."

In her youth she was impressed by Baudelaire, Racine and the French surrealist movement, but her works do not show much influence. Indeed her writings have been well acclaimed in Canada and the United States simply for this reason: on account of her unique dramatic

technique.

"I started to write when I was six years of age," she said, "but I kept my writings to myself. When I was eight years old I wrote a theater play for my teacher whom I liked a lot. At that point I understood what a responsibility it was to have this kind of gift." The death of her father, whom she idolized, also moved her to write. He was a politician, poet, a painter, writer, musician and sculptor. "To me he was a very special person, incomparable. He left the spirit of the Middle East in me," she said, sadly but with pride. In his memory she wrote her first published work, 'Nicolas, Le fils du Nil,' which is being translated and will be published soon in Cairo.

It was this work that prompted her to start writing on a professional level. "After my father died, I began to write about everything, every 'garh', because this is what a writer writes from. I don't necessarily mean this in the personal sense, but when I look at countries and people and see hurting, as a poet I have to let it out so as to open hearts and minds to this hurting. This is why I say poetry comes from reality; this reality is transformed into art and then reproduced in a more powerful way."

Her second book 'Le chant du Cawran' appeared in the early 80's and was praised for its modern technique. Its lyrical poetry



Mona Latif Ghattas

tackles political events and begins with a poem about Cambodia. Mona said, "After this poem something erupted in me and moved me to write 'Al Quds', a poem about Jerusalem which holds a special place in my heart. Then I wrote about exile, having left Egypt at 19 with a broken heart. I wrote about injustice, even injustices between men and women. I am not a destructive feminist but I cannot tolerate male chauvinism. A woman is an entity and is existent; women should be respected and have freedom of choice."

Her nostalgia for the Middle East is apparent in her third book 'Quarant voiles pour un exilé' (Forty veils of exile), portraying the long-lost lands of Nubia that lie beneath the waters of the As-

wan Dam. For Mona it is a legend about Nubia and her childhood, while the philosophy of the book revolves around the power of women, whom she sees as nature's survivors.

"After 30 years I came back to Nubia, but this time it was under water. Seeing the monuments under the water moved me to write the book, which tells a story by fragments of poems," she said, quoting:

*I am planted in the sand
Sand does not melt in water
It grows corals and crystals
which you don't see unless
you plunge into the water.*

The poem's message is for men to look deeper into women, to appreciate their real worth and beauty, while the fiction of Nubia represents love no longer existent.

The oriental soul lives in Mona's poetry and she denounces the violence and cruelty of the world, especially in her most recent work 'Le livre de notes.' "The Gulf war urged me to compose this," she said, "I was in the USA at the time and felt how far the people over there were from what was happening and that they did not realize the gravity of hurt it was generating in the Middle East."

She represented such misery by poetic, musical scenes, choosing the music then writing the

words. "Music can be understood by every language and by everyone, it is the heart of all nations," she said. "Humans are the same all over the world, and in each person is a place I call the Middle East of the heart, where everybody can meet half way. For this I have proposed this book of music, instead of history books which teach us how to build and then destroy in an endless cycle."

Mona is recognised by the 'Who's Who' book of Cambridge University and is also a member of the International Pen Club, which defends the rights of writers to freedom of expression. Her books have been well acclaimed by the press both in Canada and abroad and she has been invited as a speaker to several international congresses in Canada. Nonetheless, Mona said modestly, "I do not consider myself a professional poet yet, I am nothing. Any success I have I thank the people for."

Mona's message to Jordanian women and indeed to all women in the Middle East area was as follows: "Have the courage to be what you want to be and to write what you want to write. After all that has happened and with all that you have learnt, you have the potential. It is easier for painters because words are more dangerous, but this should not stop women. Women should not be afraid."

local schools as part of a musical awareness campaign.

Rules and regulations that apply to any university are also applicable to the Academy. For example, a student is not allowed to be absent more than 10 per cent of the time. Two examinations are given each semester with two to three teachers examining.

The Academy is in constant contact with Trinity College in England and is utilizing several of their course books. The actual syllabus used at the Academy is the combined curriculums of Yarmouk University and the Egyptian and Iraqi music academies. A scholastic program devised by founder Yusef Khashouh has also been incorporated.

A current project for the Academy is encouraging cultural exchange programs to make use of foreign expertise in music. The Egyptian pianist Dr. Huo Huang has visited the Academy and listened to the students play their various instruments.

Due to financial reasons, the Academy has had to start on a very small scale. Musical instruments are costly, and so the Academy has had to make do with only five pianos until funds are available to buy more for the coming years.

The Academy's teaching team talk of high hopes for the future. At first there was the plan to start a symphony orchestra, but when it was discovered that 20 guitarists were needed even before the other instruments, the idea was dropped. Then there was the plan to start up chamber music, but here you need at least four to eight violins. "We are in a hurry to go public before we are well on our way," said the dean.

"It would seem that they are getting there."



teacher with a degree in Oud or Qanoun is near to impossible in Jordan. "Granted, there are many who teach these instruments, but none hold a degree in music," he said.

At the moment, the Academy employs seven teachers, the majority of whom are Iraqi musicians. These teachers are in constant liaison with each other and they discuss the progress of their students.

Of all the instruments available, piano seems to be the most in demand. Iraqi musician Ghada Othman noted that some of her students were not even familiar with the proper hand positions when playing the piano. "Piano is not only music," she said, "it is technique, it is posture, it is interacting with your instrument."

"Music is a relatively new area here," said the dean. "Not all parents encourage their children to become musicians. On the contrary, a lot of people here in Jordan believe that music is for the 'eccentric.' In response to this, the Academy's teachers and students will start to perform in

1992:

A year of new Palestinian alignments?



Palestinians: Settling inner disputes

"Nobody can be against Islamic politics. We are all Muslims," explains Ahmed Shreim, from Kalkilya. As deputy chairman of the Fatah-led preparatory political committee, his job is to act as the stabilizer preventing Palestinian society from flying off the rails as it faces for the first time the twists and turns of political negotiation.

Shreim, who was imprisoned for almost two decades by the Israeli occupying authorities, sees his main job as building up a democratic structure, so the main division today is between those who want to struggle violently and those who don't, not between one ideology and another.

In fact the issue of violence vs. non-violence cuts across ideologies. Thus Riyad Al Malki, who attacks the peace process on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), actually legitimizes the democratic structure by doing so, as PFLP leader George Habbash, who takes credit for armed attacks, hinted in an interview with a Saudi newspaper two months ago. Al Malki is always careful to apologize when his remarks are construed as inciting violence.

If the PFLP has its violent and non-violent adherents, so do the other groups including Fatah and Hamas.

For his part, Hussein has gone out of his way to appear the non-violent conciliator, managing to draw the wrath of the two wings of the political debate like no other Israeli or Palestinian figure today.

Two weeks ago, in a Tulkarm cinema, he was accused of being a pacifist and "surrendering" to

the Jews, for which crime Islamic activists pelted him with stones and bottles. That same evening, at Tel Aviv University, he faced not missiles but placards displayed by radical Jewish nationalists complaining that he has been inciting to violence against Jews. Both demonstrations served him well.

But Israeli military assessments say that Fatah, the largest PLO faction by far, leads the number of attacks in the occupied territories, despite its stated commitment to peace talks. If the leadership or middle leadership took a stand against the attacks, the assessment goes, some of them would not occur.

In Israel's view, Fatah is playing a game of brinkmanship, trying to improve its position among

those who reject talks while putting pressure on Israel to continue them.

Whether this brinkmanship is cynically devised by Hussein or simply shows that he does not have full control, he is able to utilize it to serve his purpose, warning after each attack that failure to push the peace process forward will benefit only violence.

Hussein's judicious response to recent world events since the Palestinians leaned in support of Iraq may have influenced the surest attitude toward the latest events in Algeria.

A year ago, an Islamic election victory in Algeria would surely have aroused euphoria. Less than a year ago, many Palestinian moderates were saying they saw

in Saddam Hussein's pseudo-religious rhetoric a new kind of Islam, precisely the kind of things which Algeria's Islamic politicians now advocate with more credibility.

If Algeria turns out to be the real thing, it could strengthen the peaceful camp within Hamas and bring it within the camp of the "loyal opposition" which is part of the consensus which Hussein is building.

Among the East Jerusalem newspapers only the pro-Jordanian An-Nahar clearly supported Algeria's elections results, suggesting that Jordan has established a tolerable relationship with its Muslim fundamentalists who looked so threatening when they won 40 per cent of the parliamentary seats in 1989.

Instead of being a "second Iran", Algeria's Muslims were seen as an alternative Sunni model for Islamic politics, unburdened by the extreme ideological hatred for the West which infected Shi'ite Iran.

As a working member of the Jordan-affiliated Higher Muslim Council, Hussein is well equipped by his position to deal with both Hamas and Jordan, though it would seem this would have to be at the expense of the current loyal left-wing PLO opposition and possible PLO-Tunis.

However, the stabbing death of a Hamas activist in Tulkarm by a Fatah activist on the last day of 1991, following the clashes there the day before, might signal a different path for 1992, that will tax even the conciliatory skills of Hussein.

Jerusalem Post

Taiwan swinging its economic muscle abroad

By John Pomfret

TAIPEI, Taiwan — After years of leading their own garden, Taiwan businessmen have entered the world's financial markets

armed with cash. Faced with higher labor costs and a rapidly appreciating Taiwan dollar, hundreds of local firms are investing billions overseas — from low-wage textile plants in mainland China's Fujian province to hi-tech computer operations in mainland China's Fujian province to hi-tech computer operations in Palo Alto, California.

A government-backed consortium in November announced a plan to buy a US\$2 billion chunk of McDonnell Douglas, American second biggest aerospace manufacturer. Since 1990, Taiwan's investment overseas has jumped to US\$400 million in Silicon Valley.

More have been invested in Southeast Asia. In 1991, for the first time Taiwan's investment in Malaysia's No. 1 semiconductor firm, Intel, hit US\$2.3 billion.

Taiwan also leads the race in the high-tech industry. In Vietnam, the Communist nation opened to foreign investors several years ago, Taiwan companies are targeting the high-tech sector.

Taiwan companies are targeting the high-tech sector.

to take advantage of a planned free trade agreement between the United States, Mexico and Canada. Formosa Plastics' US\$3 billion have rolled into China from across the Taiwan Straits.

"Taiwan is now a major player in Asian investment. It also has its sights on Europe and the United States," said Jeff Toder, an American economist at the brokerage house Jardine Flemings Securities in Taipei. "We expect them to expand, expand, expand."

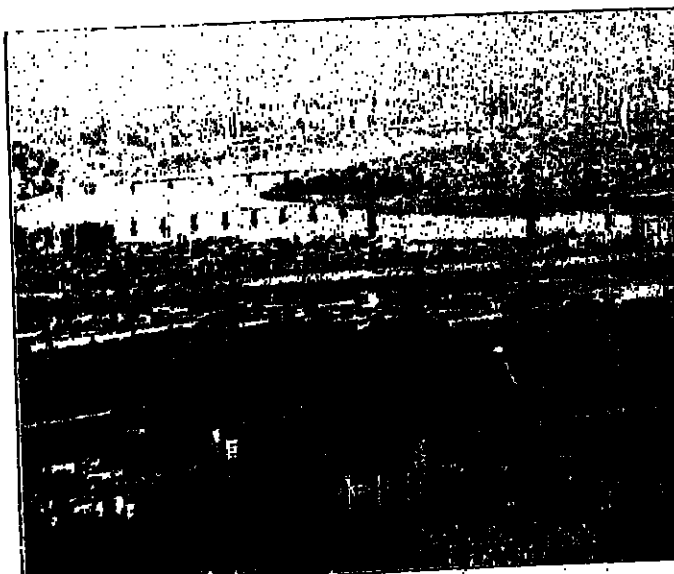
Government figures say that in just five years, Taiwan's foreign investment has increased 27 times to well over US\$6 billion a year.

Ricky Gao, the acting director general of the Industrial Development and Investment Center of the Ministry of Economic Affairs which tries to track Taiwan's investment overseas, says that figure is too low.

"Most of our businessmen won't release that kind of information," he said, adding that "They are worried about taxes."

Taiwan's push abroad reads like a case study of what a developing nation has got to do to continue breakneck growth first fueled by exports.

For decades, Asia's four Little Dragons — Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Singapore — followed the Japanese model



A general view of Taipei

of the 1950s and built their economies by pumping out a succession of cheap consumer products.

This export-led growth has fueled miraculous growth for Taiwan. Between 1971 and 1991, gross national product jumped from US\$6.6 billion to US\$180 billion, transforming Taiwan into the world's 15th biggest economy.

Foreign currency reserves, fattened by trade surpluses with the United States, also increased to about US\$80 billion, a world

high. But with growth, wages skyrocketed. Per capita income shot up from US\$443 in 1971 to US\$8,800 in 1991, third highest in Asia behind Japan and Hong Kong.

Under pressure from Washington to cut its trade surplus, the government also allowed the Taiwan dollar to appreciate nearly 40 per cent against the greenback in five years.

Now many local companies face a choice — either move to cheaper markets and cut labor

costs or upgrade their technology. Industries also have to convince picky shoppers around the world that "made in Taiwan" means quality.

Taiwan's government has supported the push abroad. In 1987, it relaxed tight restrictions on moving foreign currency out of Taiwan, allowing each adult a limit of US\$3 million a year.

Companies controlled by Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang also backed many of the projects. Gao, of the ministry of economic affairs, said the government viewed foreign investment as a chance to increase Taiwan's international stature, crippled in 1979 when the United States dropped recognition of Taiwan in favor of Communist China.

To encourage hi-tech firms, the government established Science Park, a manufacturing zone on the outskirts of Taipei. It also granted tax holidays and low interest loans. Now 22,000 people worked there and total exports hit US\$3.5 billion in 1991.

Strings of factories that churned out sweaters, telephones and toaster ovens were the first to leave Taiwan, moving through Hong Kong to mainland China.

David Wei heads one traditional family-owned firm in Taiwan, Solemn International. Factories controlled by Solemn make underwear in Fujian, car stereos in Malaysia and trinkets in Thailand.

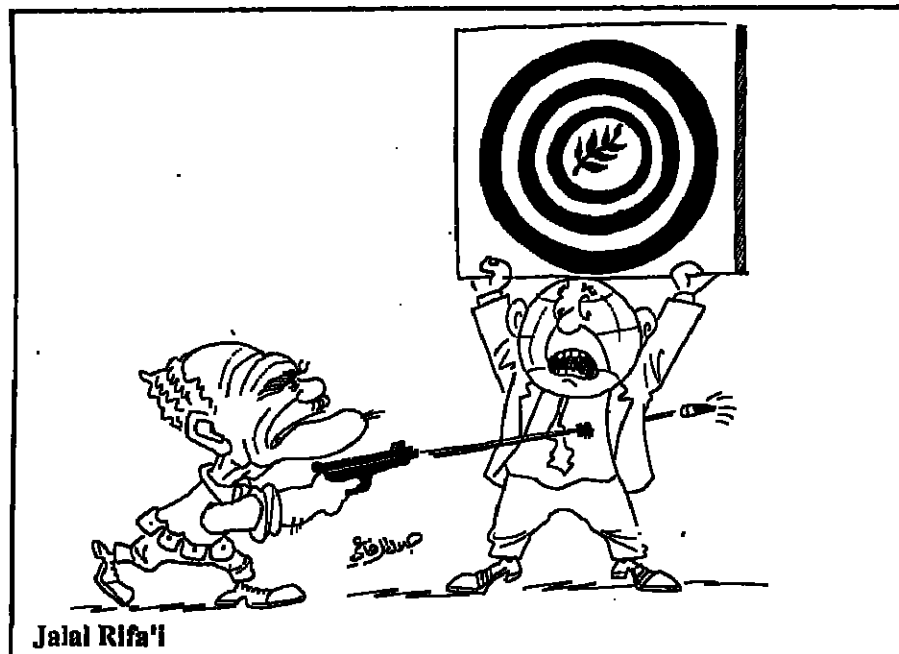
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Jalal Rifa'i

Our Say....

The message from Moscow

THE MULTILATERAL talks on the future of the Middle East will begin in Moscow next week amid fresh political developments, in our region and the world at large. The Moscow talks should mark the beginning of a serious global commitment to the welfare and stability of the Middle East. But they should not overshadow the substantial issues which are the crux of the Middle East peace process, nor should they look at the region away from many of the conflicts and problems, which have beset real development for many decades.

In simpler terms, the Moscow talks must not be turned into a donors' congregation where the rich states of this world buy their way out of their responsibilities by offering money and grants.

What is needed is a new commitment to legality, authority of international organizations and codes, and to peace and prosperity based on real development, power sharing, political reforms and democracy. This requires all parties — Americans, Europeans, Arabs and Israelis — to contribute to the establishment of a new Middle Eastern order whose foundations are unmistakably based on common goals and objectives.

For the Arabs, there will have to be a clear consensus to reform political, economic and social structures; to educate and to open up to the world, to share power and to democratize...and to make sacrifices. For the Israelis, their duty towards their own survival in this part of the world requires them to come to terms with the people they have colonized and to accept the demographic, geographic and political realities of Palestine, and not to attempt to change them by force. Their responsibility lies in their acceptance of an Israel that lives as a normal state, not as a super-state that knows no limits.

But the talks are taking place when the Middle East peace process appears to be caught in political wrangling and procedural polemics. Little progress has been made, so far, while the latest political crisis in Israel could mean further delays and additional obstacles in the path of peace.

The Moscow talks are taking place just as Israel and China are about to establish diplomatic relations. Yet, Israel's re-admission into the world community coincides with an upsurge in Israel's settlements policy in the occupied territories, a campaign of terror and detentions against the Palestinians and further disregard of the will of the international community. Such intransigence is creating much bitterness in the Arab world, which casts bleak shadows over the future of the peace process and its objectives.

The message that the Arab delegates will take to Moscow is one of hope for better times in the Middle East, but it is also a message of appeal to the world to bring Israel to its senses so that the windows of opportunities that have remained open so far may continue to be so. Otherwise the region may very easily slip back into futile bloodbaths and hostilities that would cost dear lives while achieving nothing.

The Moscow talks should present all the parties with incentives, but it should not reward them when little progress has been made towards peace. The talks, which coincide with the convening of the special UN Security Council session to determine the role of the UN in world affairs, should also take into consideration the need to end the Arab-Israeli war and the Palestinian question along with international law and UN resolutions. There must be a strong message from Moscow against Israeli settlements and against Israeli policies in the occupied territories.

The war in Amman: Reflections on the winter of 90/91

By Riad Al Khouri

IT WAS neither the best of times nor the worst of times; it was simply the Year of Living Comfortably as Jordan played host to thousands of journalists and others who descended on Amman's posh hotels after 2 August 1990. While the real drama unfolded in Baghdad, Washington and points between, the peaceful unreality of Jordan and the strange feelings of people in the country — citizens or otherwise — grew to the point where comfort and tranquility became disturbing and uncomfortable. Before the reader gets bogged down in paradox, one important point should be mentioned: many people in Jordan actually suffered badly (in the case of some Jordanians, caught in the coalition's bombing of the road to Baghdad, even getting killed or seriously wounded). But the bourgeoisie of Jordan and their counterparts in the press corps were often wallowing in a strange mixture of safety and tension. While Scuds literally flew overhead and Jordan became the object of blood-curdling threats from several places, the feeling in Amman was "business as usual - sort of."

Amman in the week preceding the expiration of the UN deadline was a city fretting with rumors. These fell into two categories: How the war was going to be avoided and what was going to happen to Jordan when the fighting started. Last ditch diplomatic initiatives were watched with acute fascination. Complicated doom-laden scenarios of regional apocalypse were described with solemn certainty. The novice observer was expected to believe two wholly incompatible theories simultaneously. First, President Bush had more sense than to use the awesome force at his disposal and a dignified peace would be brokered by Jordanian or French diplomats. Second, when the new imperialists of Washington, London and Paris opened fire on Iraq the entire Middle East would rise in violent revolution. Change would be rapid and enormous — 1991 in the Arab world would come to be seen as 1848 in Europe. Westerners had a real problem with this implausible dichotomy. Cynical journalists knew President Bush had not dispatched 30 per cent of the US military to the Gulf just to shake a symbolic fist and go home. War was going to happen — the old hands prophesied it and the freshmen believed it.

So there was scenario two to consider. Did war mean total apocalypse? The consensus among the expectant crowd of British, American and other occidental news people was yes. If the shooting started in Iraq and Kuwait it would spread as inevitably as fire does in dry straw. This absolute conviction that the war could not be contained stoked up considerable tension among Western journalists. The instructions to leave the country — carefully delivered by the embassies of Britain and America — had been ignored. There were no more regular flights leaving Queen Alia International Airport. The media people felt they were stuck for the duration, becoming convinced that life would get rough.

There were a variety of scenarios in vogue as the UN deadline crept closer and the diplomatic initiatives collapsed. The people would rise against treacherous Arab rulers. Egypt and Syria would be led by the mob and administrations in Cairo and Damascus would declare Jihad against the allies and with the Iraqi army, Jordan would fight with Saddam Hussein or, she did not, her government too would be overthrown. Israeli forces would cross the Jordan River and force around Amman en route to Iraq.

Jordanians understand the nature of Middle Eastern political rhetoric. Amman's articulate bourgeoisie knew their blood curdling editorials and chattering crowds do not necessarily lead to social revolution. Jordanians understood the importance of the safety valve. Mass demonstrations in support of Iraq, the burning of effigies of George Bush — these were likely to prevent real violence as they were to fuel it. Western journalists did not perceive events as calmly. There were many demonstrations in favor of Iraq the week before the bombs fell on Baghdad. These were calls to Jihad in the popular press. American and British journalists were advised on emergency evacuation plans by tense ambassadors who calmly warned that the mob might not tolerate the presence of enemy citizens if brother Iraq was humiliated or even just hurt. Young diplomats with smiles frozen surgically on faces distorted by worry recounted tales of lynchings in other Arab capitals after Arab-Israeli wars. At private parties in the ambassadorial residences gas masks were distributed and rendezvous points agreed upon. Until the first bombs dropped, the nightmare scenario did seem thoroughly plausible.

Jordan is a secularized state. Alcohol is widely available and some of it is inexpensive. The bourgeoisie in Amman drink in moderation. But journalists are an over-indulgent species. When working abroad they have large expense accounts. The scene in the eighth floor bar of the Amman Intercontinental Hotel on the night of the deadline expired owed something to these factors. Journalism is a pathologically macho trade. War correspondents are among the worst examples of pompous, swaggering pseudo-hard men. Male journalists do not admit to fear. This is a tribal rule. Where others would readily admit feelings of desperate paranoia journalists tend to profess a keen desire to increase the risk. This is clearly silly. Journalists are as frightened as any other human beings when confronted with danger. Tribal rules matter though. When journalists are scared they drink to excess, behave with the calm and sophistication of sixth formers and often ignore the sensitivities of others. This serves as a partial explanation of why a band (literally) of journalists and civilians spent the night of January 15th in the 16th entertaining dozens more hacks and friends with electric guitars and other instruments in the eighth floor bar of the Intercontinental.

The music was mainly vintage rock of the 50s and 60s, tailing off into blues which ended up as biting commentary on the Gulf crisis. "White House Blues," "Jordan Blues" (sample line: "Saudia my border/Americans on my back/Why...")

Continued on page 9

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The peace process Gaps in autonomy issues The Camp David track



Palestinians rejected the Camp David Accords on autonomy back in the seventies, only to accept them in principle today

statehood. They will also seek out the trappings of sovereignty, something Israel is expected to oppose at every turn.

While each side's optimal goals will not be met, their respective minimal goals should work. Self-government should block what the Arabs perceive as Israel's creeping annexation of the territories; and at the same time such an arrangement will end the immediate hostility between the Palestinian population and the Israelis.

In a well-researched and cogent monograph published by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy written by a former aide to the last three US secretaries of state, including James Baker, Dr Harvey Sicherman's work is helpful in distilling the essential differences on Palestinian self-government.

Due to the controversy surrounding the different issues, the Camp David Accords were deliberately vague on five issues: the character and scope of authority of the planned self-governing authority; security; water and land; settlements; and East Jerusalem.

Below is a look at some of the differences between Israel and Arabs until now on Palestinian self-government and the positions taken by the US:

■ The character and scope of authority of the SGA. Camp David calls for "full autonomy," but does not explicitly dwell on the source of its authority, the nature of its power, nor the size of its central body.

The US did not favor Premier Begin's "administrative," nor Shamir's subsequent "personal," autonomy. Nor did it share Egypt's more sweeping approach providing the Palestinians with both executive and legislative powers that would effectively constitute a mandate for a Palestinian state.

The US has taken a more vague middle ground. In Baker's letter of assurances to Faisal Hussein on the eve of the Madrid conference, he wrote "the purpose of negotiations on transitional arrangements is to effect the peaceful and orderly transfer of authority from Israel to Palestinians, Palestinians need to achieve rapid control over political, economic and other decisions that affect their lives and to adjust to a new situation in which Palestinians exercise authority in the West Bank and Gaza."

While Israel argued that the source of authority for self-government would be its military governor for the territories and the Egyptians said it should be the SGA itself, the US view is neither. In a letter of clarification to Jordan immediately after Camp David, the US noted that the accords just signed called for a "continuing committee" to work out possible "disruption and disorder." It would comprise Israel, Egypt and Jordan. This panel,

along with the final document on autonomy that is ultimately negotiated, would constitute the highest authority, the US says.

It might be noted that the continuing committee, as stipulated by the Camp David Accords, also has the task of agreeing "on the modalities of admission of persons displaced from the West Bank and Gaza in 1967." Israel originally wanted to have a veto in this committee but this was left out of the Camp David Accords.

Begin thought the overarching SGA should be compact, having no more than 11 members, which he believed befitted the administrative character of the body. Egypt called for an 80-100 member parliamentary assembly. During US special envoy Sol Linowitz's subsequent trips to the region, he narrowed differences by convincing Israel to divide the number of functions into "at least" 25 separate portfolios.

■ Settlements. On the issue of Israeli settlements in the Territories, the Egyptian autonomy proposal of 1980 simply calls for the dismantling of all settlements.

Two years later, the Reagan Plan (published just after Israel's war in Lebanon) came out against dismantling settlements but favored a "real settlement freeze."

In Baker's letter to Hussein this past October, he reiterated the US position against settlements: "The US has opposed and will continue to oppose settlement activity in the territories occupied in 1967, which remains an obstacle to peace." This appears to include East Jerusalem, as Baker adds, "we do not recognize Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem or the extension of its municipal boundaries, and we encourage all sides to avoid unilateral acts that would exacerbate local tensions or make negotiations more difficult or pre-empt their final outcome."

■ Water and land. Both Israel and Egypt (speaking for the Palestinians) asserted exclusive rights to water and land in early negotiations. However, in meetings with Israelis and Egyptians on October 18, 1980, US envoy Linowitz reported that a breakthrough was achieved with Israel agreeing that "future" development of water and land should be worked out in a power-sharing arrangement with the Palestinian SGA.

A year and a half later, the new Likud government headed by Begin and then defense minister Ariel Sharon reportedly reiterated this during two separate sessions in Tel Aviv between October 23-29, 1981, and November 4-12 in Gaza. Two months later then Israel's Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir publicly noted how Israel's flexible approach to land and water was winning "compliments" all over the world.

No agreement was reached on existing water resources. However, there is now hope the upcoming multilateral talks on the regional water problem will ultimately increase the level of water supply to Israel and those in the Occupied Territories.

■ Security. According to Camp David, the Israeli army is supposed to "withdraw," except for those unspecified units redeployed in named security locations. Israel and Jordan are supposed to engage in joint patrols and the manning of control posts along the border.

The US realized that the real problem was not external security, as Israel's needed early-warning stations and deployments along the Jordan Valley would be unobtrusive to the Palestinian population. The main problem is internal security, with Israel seeking to maintain its intelligence assets and its justified capability of rooting out armed attacks before it takes shape. Therefore, the Reagan Plan called for a vague incrementalist approach based on proven Israeli-Palestinian cooperation. Sicherman believes the US may have to play a role in enhancing trust between the Israeli army and the Palestinian police force, letting each side know what the red lines are and even providing Israel with satellite information about movements in the territories.

■ East Jerusalem. East Jerusalem is another aspect generating different positions: the standard US view on dealing with the emotion-laden symbol of Jerusalem is that if it is dealt with first all Arab-Israeli negotiations will collapse. Therefore, beyond non-binding side letters laying out their respective positions, there is no mention of East Jerusalem in the Camp David Accords.

In Egypt's first autonomy proposal of 1980, Cairo called for East Jerusalem to be the capital of the self-governing authority. The US however, did not accept this. While going on record as opposing inclusion of East Jerusalem as a formal part of the Camp David Accords, the US has also consistently opposed Israel's effort to exclude East Jerusalemites from voting in elections for self-government.

In summary, it is unlikely Israel is going to be able to convince the Palestinians of its positions if it cannot first persuade the US.

Reflections on the war in Amman

Continued from page 8

why do I have to take all this flak?" and other songs made up on the spot and sung in the traditional twelve bar, three chord style kept journalists and Jordanians alike up all the wee hours. Not that this was to everybody's taste: a small minority decided war and song do not mix and withdrew, either in boredom or in protest. And in case this all sounds unbelievable, tapes of the evenings' music are kicking around the BBC somewhere and can be heard if you know the right people...

Eight floors below the music, upper crust Amman slept, indifferent to the crisis. As with most wars, the elite did not suffer unduly — it was the poor who had the most difficulty in an economy that was rapidly seen to be going down the drain. Or was it? Part of the unreality of the Gulf crisis and war for Jordan was the economic collapse that never happened. Of suffering there was plenty, but the basic structure of the country's business and public services held together. Fuel was rationed, but not so that you would feel an energy crunch reminiscent of the early 70s. A two-day weekend was declared for the civil service, but many countries have that anyway. And to the great chagrin of the bourgeoisie, restaurants had to close early. In short, inconvenience rather than real economic trouble was what they had to put up with.

But for the workers and the poor, things were quite different.

Riad Al Khouri is an economic consultant.

Section française du Star

Les Jordaniens ont enterré les vieux démons

S.K.

La JTV sur son trente et un pour la coupe d'Afrique

L.J. Le ballon rond s'est imposé face à certains programmes? Avez-vous reçu des plaintes?

Z.F. "Au contraire, les réactions ont été très favorables... Nous avons effectivement supprimé certains programmes réguliers

L.J. Les images vous sont envoyées par Canal France International (CFI). Êtes-vous satisfait de cette coopération ?
Z.P. "Elle est au mieux. Nous utilisons beaucoup de matériel de CFI. A l'avenir, nous espérons en utiliser davantage. Mais depuis le début, CFI nous fait parvenir des commentaires en français. Je verrais les choses d'un autre œil si'ils étaient en Arabe". ■
Propos recueillis par Michel Armand

YEMEN - Un topographe français de l'IGN, Institut géographique national, vient d'être libéré. Une tribu yéménite l'avait enlevé, avec son assistant, il y a quelques jours seulement. Selon le quotidien al-Tajammou, organe du Parti Unioniste Yéménite (PUY), les deux hommes ont été libérés à la suite d'une "médiation officielle à caractère tribal".

PLAINTÉ - Le Premier ministre français, Edith Cresson, porte plainte "pour injure" contre le président du Front National Jean-Marie Le Pen. Lors d'une réunion électorale vendredi à Saint Malo, dans l'ouest de la France, le leader du parti d'extrême droite a affirmé que "le gouvernement socialiste est un amas de voleurs, de racketteurs et de gangsters qui affiche un bilan désastreux dans tous les domaines".

Les 'plaques noires' passent à la douane

A black and white photograph showing the front of a dark-colored Chevrolet Caprice sedan. The car features a large, multi-bar chrome grille and rectangular headlights. The license plate is visible at the bottom center, displaying the text "A-VT 8072". The car is parked on a street, with a building visible in the background to the right.

EST TRES cher, trop cher, nous n'avons pas assez d'argent, les rapatriés qui sont dans le bureau sont très en colère contre la taxe" affirme Mohamed Ahmed, ex-employé de l'Arabian National Petroleum Company. Ce kessieh rouge de la rue de Golfe attend son heure. "C'est un malin, le bureau spéciaux noirs" de la "American Customs House" est pris

firme-i-l. L'insulte suprême est lâchée: "C'est très bureaucratique..."

Deux portes plus loin, le directeur de la "Amman Customs House" reçoit les plaintes. Il signe, resigné... Mais ne fait pas de commentaire. Son associé, qui travaille depuis un mois dans ce service accuse d'ontrouvrir sa porte. "La situation est difficile, mais nous sommes prêts à l'affronter" affirme-t-il.

sur cette même valeur. "En fait cela représente un tiers des trirfs normaux (de 140 à 320%), les autorités veulent aider ces gens. Parce qu'ils ont été forcés de renouer, ils ont perdu leurs emplois, leurs maisons, tout. La plupart d'entre-eux n'ont pas assez d'argent, c'est pourquoi ils bénéficient de réductions" affirme Zein Al Aayed, attachée de presse du "Custom Department". Le raisonnement est on ne peut plus cartésien. Pourtant, il ne fait pas l'unanimité.

"Allègez la taxe"

Au siège du quotidien "Al Doustour", Abdalla al Qaq, journaliste, ne décolore pas. Il a une immense "Oldsmobile" blanche qui va lui coûter 9000 JD. Sans compter la Toyota de sa fille, Hanane: 6000 JD. Et la Mitsubishi de son fils Mohammad: 7000 JD. La ruine.

Abdalla al Qaq, veste, puit, moustache et cheveux gris est président du "Comité des rapatriés en Jordanie" qui regroupe des businessmen, des docteurs, des professeurs et des journalistes. "Cette taxe, ce n'est pas bon pour les rapatriés, ils doivent l'alléger" affirme-t-il. Ses propositions: réduire les taux de mouture; le délai de paiement de 24 mois doit passer à cinq ans; les voitures antérieures à 1981 doivent être acceptées.

"Si le gouvernement en reste là,

Francis Mazoyer

de Suleiman
Swets

'Révolution administrative'

On applique souvent une loi "non-écrite" fort connue la "Wasta". Népotisme en bon français. Puisque tout est compliqué, on préfère passer par dessus les lois s'adresser directement au plus haut de l'échelle pour faire signer un simple papier.

Autre vico catastrophique: les relations tribales qui prennent souvent place des lois et règlements. Nous sommes pas encore arrivés au stade de l'Etat de droit. Ce qui compte avant tout ce sont les relations personnelles ou familiales. Cela ouvre la porte à toutes sortes de corruptions.

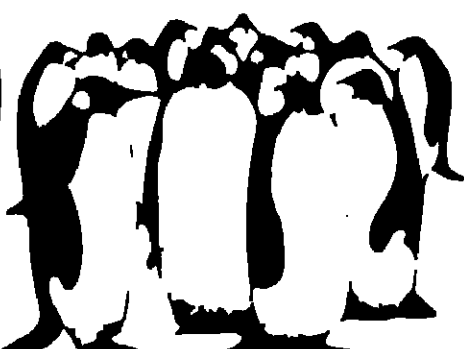
Une véritable réforme administrative est avant une décision politique. Premier ministre a l'air réticent. Tout de suite, il a nommé deux commissions, l'une pour l'inspection administrative et l'autre pour la révision des législations. Elles se sont déjà mises au travail. Il faut maintenant que les mass-médias, les universités, les écoles et les organisations populaires de tout genre participent aux efforts de la réforme administrative.

L'efficacité
l'administration devra
mesurée en fonction de
productivité. Et non pas
nombre de signatures!

Le pire serait que commissions nouvelles créées deviennent au de quelques mois rouages de la machine bureaucratique... au lieu de mener la "révolution administrative" contre cette machine.

machine. ■

AROUND TOWN



Congratulations!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

Her Majesty Queen Noor opened last Tuesday the exhibition on Jordanian antiquities held in Paris by a French artist. The month-long exhibition, depicting the different historical eras in Jordan, will be held in other French cities so as to promote Jordan touristically.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Jordanian and French ministers of tourism, members of the diplomatic corps in Paris and journalists.

The Amman Public University in cooperation with the Balqa Directorate of Agriculture last Saturday organized a celebration on the occasion of Arbor Day, in which youths from the local centers and clubs participated.

Also participating in the event, which included planting wide areas of the governorate, were the president of the university Dr Nasereddin Al Asad and the governor Mr Faleh Al Gharaybeh.

On the other hand, the director of agriculture in the governorate Mr Mohammad Al Lawzi stated that over 270,000 saplings were distributed during this season to be planted over an area of 3,000 dunums.

Mr Mashhour Al Hadeed won the elections held last Saturday for the post of the presidency of the Jordanian Artists Association. In the election, held at Osama Al Mashini Theater, Mr Al Hadeed defeated his opponents Mr Mohammad Al Abadi and Mr Jameel Awwad by managing to collect 65 votes in his favor.

The Arab Women Association held a grand celebration at the Professional Unions Complex in Irbid, in which 154 women grad-



The Jordan InterContinental Hotel in Amman honored its staff in a traditional New Year celebration. The new general manager, Mr Shawqi Ayoub, who was transferred from Saudi Arabia where he worked as a general manager at the Jeddah Conference Palace, delivered a speech in which he thanked the employees for their efforts during the past year.

The management presented gifts and awards to staff members and singled out Mr Omar Rababah as the employee of the year. Dinner was served, according to tradition, to the hotel staff during the celebration, which also included an entertainment program.

uated and received certificates for having finished the requirements of training courses in sewing, beauty-care and textile.

Speakers included the Secretary of the Association Mrs Amal Naffa, Mr Mohammad Al Warden and the director of social development in Irbid, all praising the association's efforts to better serve the community through offering vocational training courses and illiteracy courses.

President of Yarmouk University, Dr Ali Mahafzah last week opened an art exhibition in which paintings of students of the university were on display. The exhibition, held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), was organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs at the university.

aware of his own musical gifts and tortured by the guilt of having offended his religious and domineering father.

The film will be shown again on Sunday 26 January.

Lectures

At the French Cultural Center, Mr Noël Favrelière will be giving a lecture on "Paul Gauguin: Ou la couleur en liberté" on Wednesday 29 January at 6 pm.

At the Goethe Institute Amman, Mr William and Mrs Fidelity Lancaster will lecture on "Recent ethno-archaeological research in Jordan" on Tuesday 28 January at 7 pm.

Exhibitions

At Alla Art Gallery, the exhibition of paintings by the Jordanian artist Alla Shantl Amoura will be opened today at 5:30 pm. It will run until 29 January.



A desert scene from the film "Friends"

TV film portrays state of Arab world after Gulf War

By Vesna Masharqa
Special to The Star

A RECENT weekly gathering of The Phoenix Center's Cinema Club saw the first showing of a new TV film entitled "Friends". Written and directed by Mohammad Azizah and produced by Khalil Jahamani, the film has cast Riyadh Haidib in his first leading role, with Mohammad Azizah and Khalil Jahamani in supporting roles.

"Friends" is the first Jordanian video film to be produced for TV after the Gulf War and is an escape from the realities of Jordanian life and the economic-political aspects of the post-war period. It is an atypical story about three Jordanian friends who leave to search for gold in the desert mountains.

En route they share the beautiful moments of friendship, coping together with the harsh desert conditions. At their point of destination they find gold, but one decides to kill his friends and takes all the gold for himself. After shooting his friends, he dies on his way home from a poisonous snake bite.

Following the presentation of the film, the Cinema Club's members, amongst them artists, intellectuals and cinema fans, staged a discussion with the film's production team with cinema critic Hassan Abu Ghanima as chair.

The main remarks and criticism concerned the film's subject, which was evaluated by the majority as being far removed from Jordanian reality, while the characters failed to present the psychology and mentality of any Jordanian social stereotype.

Nonetheless, acting was considered to be good and the cinematic language of a satisfactory level.

Film director Azizah, better known as a TV series director who specializes in bedouin series and TV documentary films, said that it was his first attempt at making a film for his own pleasure.

"I didn't care about what peo-

ple would say or what their expectations would be. I just worked to have fun and enjoy myself," he said. "It was a challenge for me to make a film with only three characters, myself being one of them, and keep the audience captivated for an hour and a half," he added.

Producer Jahamani evaluated the film as his best production yet. He believes he succeeded in capturing the beauty of nature and in keeping the film interesting throughout.

"We worked under very difficult conditions," he said, "but we managed to complete it."



Preparing for a shot

tally and physically. Shooting started during the Gulf crisis, when I had limited financial resources and a very small crew."

For starring actor Haidib, the film was the fulfillment of a dream. He said he worked hard at his role, which is basically negative and against his own nature.

"I was supposed to harness and kill my friends at the end for the sake of gold, which was very difficult for me because I don't believe in killing friends for such reasons. Also I love Khalil and Mohammad so much that it wasn't easy for me to bring such negative feelings," he said.

Whether this film portrays their reality or a romanticized version, the TV audience will have to decide this once the film starts circulating among Jordanian TV stations. It could be that the film will have a major impact on the right when he said: "It is not easy to see such a film about the Gulf War. The story of three friends being happy together and then killing each other has not been discovered gold looks very much like the situation in the Arab world. I see this as the hidden message of this film, emerging from the subconscious of its producers."

By Ken Jones

WEEK Paul Simon's lyric is especially poignant. "In the morning stands a boxer, and a fighter by his trade, and he carries the reminders of every glove he's ever worn," Muhammad Ali is now in his mind. "I'm old," he says recently. "Time passes so fast."

At a middle-age looks pleasant, well, unmarked after 25 years in the ring, still rousing the crowd, the reminders of hard work, sweat, and reminders, in ponderous movements, in speech, long periods of inactivity, repeated heavy blows to the head brought on Parkinson's disease. He is brain damaged and losing.

When he began his improbable career, when the only thing he had was his fists was his own. Ali possessed powers that seemed to heal the world and raise the dead. Now he is slowly through life, and it seems to imagine him as a late-day Joe Louis, forlornly drifting in a bleak old age, friends and family, serene. "I'm going to spend the next 30 years with only three characters, myself being one of them, and keep the audience captivated for an hour and a half," he chuckles.

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"We worked under very difficult conditions," he said, "but we managed to complete it."

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Ali at 50 endures as a sign of his times

wrote for Sports Illustrated magazine throughout most of Ali's career, says, "Muhammad is an extraordinarily decent person, and always has been, innately so. But I don't think he is very bright, and over the years I found him somewhat boring. Thrilling as a fighter, but tedious as a person. And if you look back, Ali never said much of worth other than, 'I ain't got no quarrel with them Vietcong.' Other than that, it was a lot of redundant material that kept getting recycled like those wrestlers you see ranting and raving on television."

Others are convinced that Ali gave considerable impetus to the aspirations of black America. The Rev. Jesse Jackson has said: "Ali did not legitimize the action of Islam. He helped publicize it. Islam at that time was espousing a philosophy of self-determination and independence that made it different from the civil rights thrust. He went beyond the civil rights goal as an objective. Ali helped to internationalize black consciousness as much as anybody. People didn't turn to Islam because of Ali. They simply fought for his right to exercise his religious beliefs."

Budd Schulberg, the author wrote in "Loser and Sill Champion", "In the Savage Sixties, all in their different ways, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, Eldridge Cleaver, Cassius Clay became Muhammad Ali were saying, 'You must look, you must acknowledge us, you must let us walk free at last or we will die together as master-slave and subslave ineluctably chained together.'"

To be around Ali was to be aware of a sincere response to spiritual motivation, but those who saw him as evil incarnate reacted with predictable hostility when, in 1967, he refused to be drafted for Vietnam. That futile and debilitating conflict had yet to trouble America's conscience and though thousands of young men were fleeing the country, Ali was fined \$10,000 and sentenced to five years imprisonment. Within hours he was also stripped of his title by the New York Commission and the World Boxing Association.

There followed more than three years in exile until the Supreme Court at last ruled in his favor. The second phase of Ali's career was certainly the most momentous. Beginning with a loss to Joe Frazier for the undisputed heavyweight championship on 8 March 1971, he began to earn in multiples of seven figures, grossing more than \$50 million; he fought for the championship in bizarre locations. Most sensationally he took it from George Foreman in Zaire and defended it most thrillingly against Frazier, his great adversary, in Manila. In 1978 Ali rolled back the stone again when regaining the title from a dishevelled Leon Spinks in New Orleans.

In Zaire making some sense of it all was not easy amid the shrillness that surrounded the challenger. Soaring from one fanciful proclamation to another, Ali was in splendid form, but bleak images gathered in the minds of his acolytes. Darkness brought a shudder of doubt to



them all, a chilling awareness that their futures hinged on the extent of Ali's will when exposed to Foreman's heavy artillery.

Sport provides a convenient vehicle for exaggeration, success and failure, youth and aging; when set against the ultimate verity, it is never thus and yet the drama that unfolded in Kinshasa was almost suffocatingly intense. Astonishingly, and ignoring screeches of concern from his corner, Ali chose to

fight off the ropes. By the seventh round he had drawn most of Foreman's strength. At the start of the eighth, the champion hit Ali with three punches to the head and then stumbled on to two rights. Sent sideways by a left hook, Foreman went down from another right and was counted out.

Unquestionably Ali should have retired after retaining the title against Frazier in Manila, a contest that left both men utterly exhausted ("It was next to

death," Ali admitted). Instead he had another nine contests, taking more and more punches to the head. In truth Ali never fully regained the powers he took into exile, certainly not his phenomenal leg speed. "When he got back into training I noticed a significant difference," says Angelo Dundee, his friend and trainer. "He was deliberately taking punches from sparring partners, as though proving to himself that he could get away with getting hit. And of course he had tremendous heart and the strongest of chins. He's not only the most amazing fighter I've ever come across, he's the most unusual human being, the most fascinating person I've ever met. Every day I pray that they find a cure for his condition."

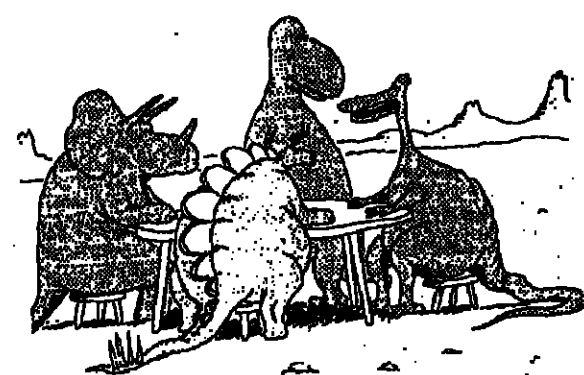
When Ali as Cassius Clay first arrived at Dundee's Fifth Street gym in Miami, the gnarled old pros shook their heads. In their terms he did everything wrong, obeying none of the tenets they held sacrosanct. He carried his hands low, and instead of slipping punches he pulled away; he seldom went to the body. But in Dundee's mind a bad habit was only one that did not work. What he saw was a genius of the ring.

From being reviled as a braggart, Ali is now revered as an American hero. Other boxers held him in awe. Larry Holmes, who defeated Ali for the championship, effectively ending his career, said: "When I first started out he gave me a black eye in sparring. I wouldn't let anybody treat it. I wanted it, to be there for ever."

In aligning himself with the Muslim faith, Muhammad Ali became a microcosm of his times and must be judged in that context. Black Society was on the march and who better to represent their cause than the most thrilling virtuoso boxing has ever seen.

The Independent

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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
25-31
January

ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — For the Sake of Children. A documentary program about a British lady who travels to Peru as a tourist and ends up living there.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Feature Film. "La mort adit pent": A film about a young lady, Zeina, who was saved from committing suicide by the man who later falls in love with her.

SUNDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest: Harry and his daughters decide to sell the house and buy another one, but strange occurrences prevent that from happening.
9:10 — Nippon. "The Risen Sun": This episode examines Japan's relationship with other countries, namely the United States, and how that affects the Japanese society and the way of life.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Law and Order. "Prescription for death": A drunkard doctor causes death to one of his patients; the police investigate and the doctor is punished.

MONDAY

8:30 — Hey Dad.
9:10 — The Capital City: Max works day and night to put together a \$20-million-deal. At first, everything runs smoothly, but then his luck changes.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — The Elite: The team investigates a dumping site where toxic wastes are illegally dumped.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Evening Shade: Michelle goes to her coach's office and rudely tells him that she will teach him soon all about love.
9:10 — Colour in the Creek. A mini series: All the men including John dig enthusiastically for gold and accidentally discover mercury.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — G.B.H.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Teech: Why did the students fail in the music exam for the second time?
9:10 — Climate and Men. A scientific documentary on climatic changes around the world.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Prime Suspect: A lady chief inspector solves a complicated murder case.

THURSDAY

8:30 — The Simpsons: Bart Simpson is run over by Mr Pen's car. Mr Simpson demands big



Teech on Wednesday at 8:30

money as compensation, but Mrs Simpson has a different story to tell the court.
9:10 — NBA basketball.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Eyes of Witness: Movie of the week: A big businessman from New York risks going to Kenya to bring back his daughter, who works there as a doctor along with her boyfriend, during an outbreak of war.

FRIDAY

8:30 — Lenny: Lenny, his wife and the children are invited to his parents' to have dinner.
9:10 — Derrick. "Doctor Preisel": Violence may take many shapes and forms, but it will always breed violence.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Chancer. "Pretenders": Stephen uncovers misconduct in Douglas Motors accounts, and the accountant resigns and Robert Douglas's missing son returns home.

FRENCH PROGRAM

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine. "La Dame En Noir": Anne-Sophie is rehearsing for the role of "La Dame En Noir" for a school play.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties.

DIMANCHE

5:30 — Les badaboks.
5:45 — Geoscope. "Marie la vallée": In the east of Paris, in Marie la vallée, a new city has

been built (Ville Nouvelle).
6:10 — L'école des fans.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de Notes.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A program about life in the seas.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Bouli. A cartoon series for children.
6:15 — Les tortues Ninja.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie: A man brings in his chimpanzee for treatment and is told that he must stop smoking as it indirectly affects the chimpanzee.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Varieties.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Intertropiques. The agricultural magazine in Africa.

JEUDI

5:00 — Adoption. "les liens du cœur": The report is on international adoption namely the adoption of Brazilian children.
5:30 — Maguy.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — International circus.

VENDREDI

5:30 — Long metrage. "Irina, l'impair et passe": A French film.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Review your finances and conserve rather than spend. A letter or conversation puts a new slant on an old relationship. Be responsive to a loved one, but avoid making promises you cannot keep.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Your understanding and sympathy will mean a lot to someone. Your help will be richly repaid! Give love a chance, especially if a young person is involved. Try to leave work early.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): Important documents occupy your attention. Take care of pending bills and overdue correspondence. Ask your mate or partner for greater cooperation. Remain aloof when dealing with someone who is jealous.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): A financial matter will require a discreet approach. An exciting transitional period affects your personal life! Relax with good friends this weekend. New challenges are coming your way.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Your energy level is high this week. Clear the decks before launching a new project. A loyal friend is depending on you. Do not forget your promises. Attend a small social gathering.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): Take a professional approach to your responsibilities. Although family matters are complicated, solutions will be found sooner than you think. Make time to nurture a new relationship.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Although you tend to resist change, major moves are favoured now. Take a good look at what you must do to reach a cherished goal. Distant contacts prove invaluable. Use them wisely.

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Showing more initiative will put you in the driver's seat. Higher-ups see you in a new light. A promotion or raise may come sooner than you think. Do not be taken in by flattery.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): A message could be garbled. Take minor delays in stride. Having a long-range view is important in business. Greater personal happiness lies ahead. Your social life is on the upswing.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Take note of current trends. Write letters promoting your services but do not exaggerate what you have to offer. An older person wants to have a special place in your heart! Be receptive.

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Business affairs seem to be at a standstill. Restraint will be necessary in order to avoid serious arguments. A health problem requires attention. A romantic interlude is best postponed.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Forget your pet peeve and set out to win new friends. Showcase special artistic talents. Significant progress will result from your positive attitude. Pay more attention to children's needs.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are comfortable with the status quo and will dig in their heels when confronted with big changes. They have great respect for tradition and work hard to keep things the way they have always been. Leaving home to go to college can be especially wrenching for these affectionate youngsters. They love their homes and do not want anything altered in their absence. These children tend to be possessive of their friends and should guard against acting jealous in romance.

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Words of Wisdom

Inspiration is like lightning. It strikes randomly and with powerful force.

The greatest gift you can give a loved one is something that's part of yourself.

Other people take just as many chances as young folks, but they have a better handle on the odds.

Even a simple man knows that life is complex.

There is no worse enemy than an angry neighbor.

The positive approach to problem-solving works almost every time.

Making the trains run on time isn't enough to make a great leader.

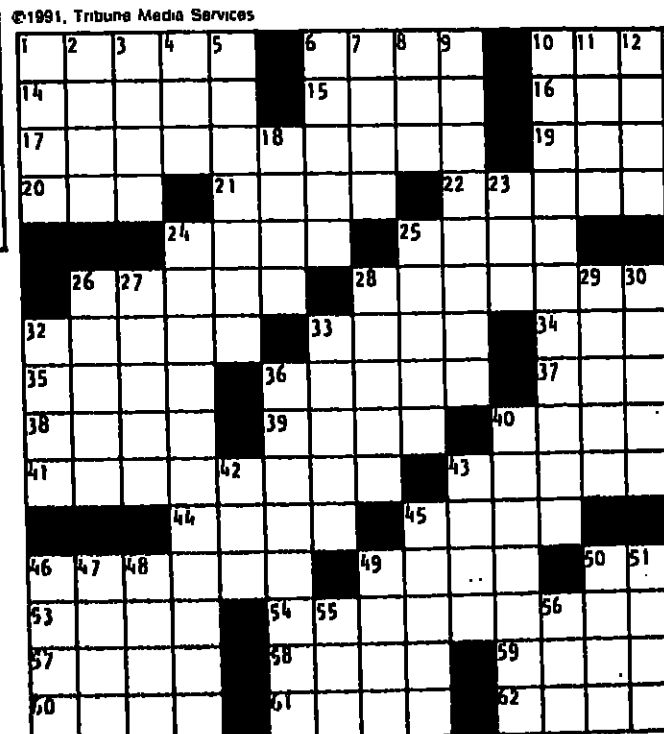
Solution

Across
1 Violin, for short
6 Romantic
10 Peruvian
14 Abode
15 Mild oath
16 Tide
17 In single file
19 Heraldry term
20 — Plaines
21 Too
22 Palmer of golf
24 Oleaginous
25 Pivot
26 Wary
28 Time way back
32 City on the Rhine
33 Spread-hand measure
34 Disorder
35 Shed feathers
36 "Over —"
37 — example

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across
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36 "Over —"
37 — example

Down
2 Quiet — mouse
3 Holds back
4 Ms. Rosa
5 Exchange premium
6 On the — (feeling)
7 Paragon
8 "Out the Other" (Sam Levenson book)
9 Roman tyrant
10 Phone imitated
11 Friend
12 Hit and — Counting words
13 Gape at
14 Old hag
15 Let
16 Theater or church area
17 Feteles
18 Volcano
19 US abbr.
20 Tear to bits



JORDAN BRIDGE

by Ghassan Ghanem

Khair and Charity

THE JORDANIAN Save the children fund held a charity bridge tournament last Friday at the Jordan Bridge Association.

The proceeds of the tournament were assigned to the needy children of Jordan. Two sections of eleven tables each formed the competition field which was supposed to be directed by Mr. Arafat saheb, but I had to replace him since he preferred to practice with his partner Mr. Elzein as a part of their extensive preparation to play together in Egypt next month.

I had a strong intuition that Mr. M. Khair and Mr. Mazen Kayyali were going to win the tournament and I told them about it. One round after they started, Mazen had to leave unexpectedly. Mrs. Lilian Ayash replaced him and they won!

Some important points were raised regarding bidding situations, here are some of them:

What do you open with this hand:
AJ93 ♠ AQ74 ♣ AQ85 ♠ A

• Your right hand opened 1♠.
What do you bid with this hand:

♠ 864 ♥ AKQ97 ♦ 75 ♣ K2

Most of the players applied a 2♠ Michael's Cue Bid to show both majors, a bid I would not bid.

Two good reasons to reject the bid:
First: The Heart suit is longer and much stronger compared to the Spade suit which may mislead the responder, specially with three cards of Spade and two cards of Heart.

Second: I prefer to play the two ranges Michael's: 7 to 11 or 16 and more points, this would leave the 12 - 15 points range for direct natural over-calls. 1♥ is good enough to express the hand.

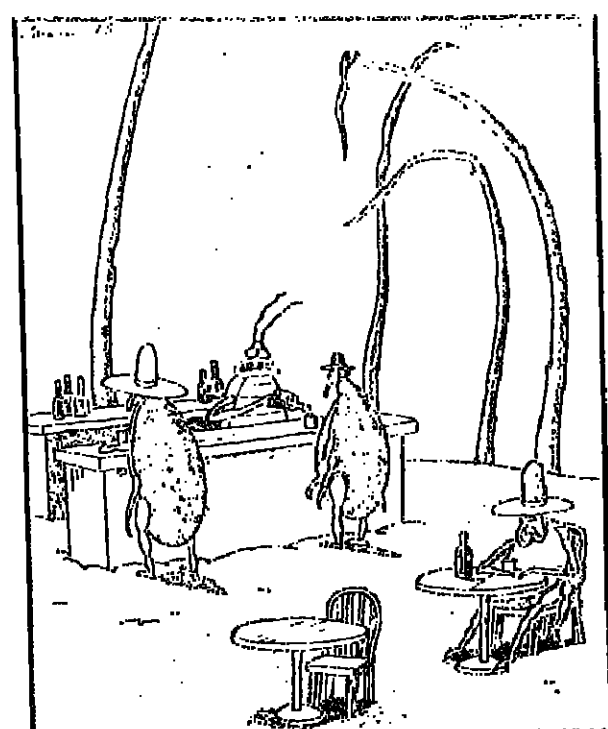
• Your partner opens 1N (15 - 17 points) and your right hand opponent bid 2♠.
What do you bid holding:

♠ 9 ♥ Q53 ♦ KQ108642 ♠ 75

Would you force to game with this hand or you prefer to invite the game?

Which game? 3N or 5♦? If you play Lebensohl, 3♦ is game force and 3N shows game values without a spade stopper. If you are not a convention addict, then your only bid is 3♦ with a bid for your partner to guess.

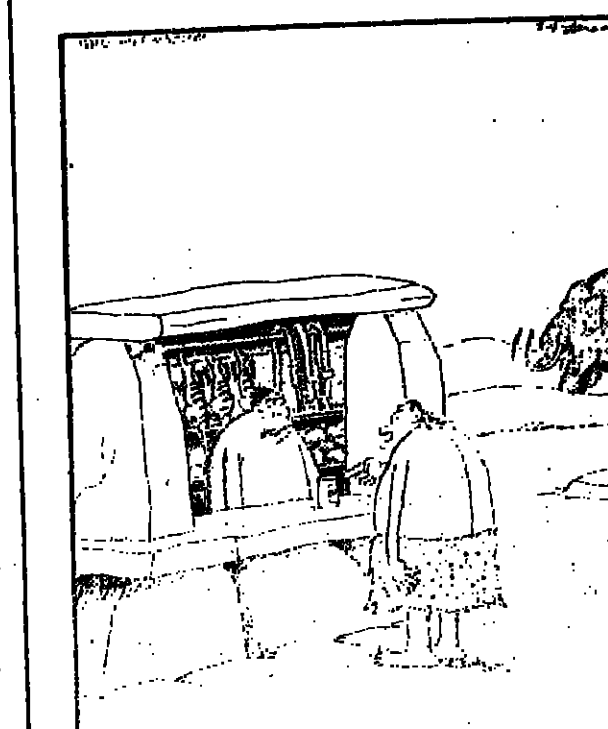
THE FAR SIDE By GARY LARSON



"You're a long way from Big Poodle, stranger. ... This here is Dead Skunk, and if I were you I'd just keep on movin'."



"... And please let Mom, Dad, Rex, Ginger, Tucker, me and all the rest of the family see color."



"Hey! Not this new stuff. ... Me want Jurassic Coke."